

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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65

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 221650Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 570

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2469

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, ET, US

SUBJECT: KAGNEW FOUR: REQUEST FOR PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: KHARTOUM 2467 (NOTAL)

1. MICHAEL MALIK, REUTERS REP FROM NAIROBI, TOLD PAO EARLY OCT 22 THAT RECENT WASHINGTON POST STORY BY OTTAWAY (WHICH WE HAVE NOT SEEN) TRIGGERED QUERY TO HIM BY HIS LONDON OFFICE RE KAGNEW CASE. MALIK ACCORDINGLY AT LAST MINUTE LEFT GROUP JOURNALISTS (INCLUDING TIMEMAN) JUST PRIOR DEPARTURE FOR JUBA IN ORDER DIG INTO CASE.

2. MALIK SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED PAO HE FILING STORY APPROXIMATELY 1300 ZULU TODAY BASED ON INTERVIEW HE OBTAINED WITH HUMED KULU WHO DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS LOCAL ELF REP. KULU SHOWED HIM IDENTITY CARDS STRICKLAND AND BOWIDOWICZ AND COPIES THEIR LETTERS TO AMBASSADOR. FOR REASONS WE
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CANNOT EXPLAIN, KULU CLAIMED LETTERS NOT YET DELIVERED

TO AMBASSADOR NOR WAS LATTER ACQUAINTED WITH TERMS ON BASIS OF WHICH ELF WOULD RELEASE HOSTAGES. KULU THEN OUTLINED TERMS (VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL THOSE CONTAINED PARA 2 KHARTOUM 2442). HE ADDED LETTERS AND TERMS FOR RELEASE WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO AMBASSADOR SHORTLY. CITING WELL KNOWN USG ANTI-BLACKMAIL POLICY, MALIK ASKED WHAT ELF HOPED TO GAIN OUT OF ITS HARD STANCE. KULU REPLIED USG POLICY STATEMENTS WERE NOT THEIR AFFAIR BUT IF USG HAD ANY CONCERN FOR LIVES THESE TWO MEN, THERE WOULD BE SOME POSITIVE RESPONSE.

3. PRIOR FILING MALIK ASKED PAO WHETHER AMBASSADOR COULD COMMENT ON KULU'S INFORMATION. AFTER CHECKING PAO REPLIED BY EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO MALIK FOR THIS INFORMATION WHICH WE FOUND MOST INTERESTING BUT TELLING HIM THAT WE ARE NOT IN POSITION TO COMMENT.

4. COMMENT: KULU'S COMMENTS TO MALIK NO DOUBT REFLECT LINE HE WILL TAKE WHEN HE MEETS WITH DCM IN AN HOUR'S TIME (REFTEL). BELIEVE WE SHOULD ASSUME THAT KULU WILL ENDEAVOR BRIEF MALIK EARLY TOMORROW ON WHAT TRANSPIRED. IT THUS APPEARS STORY WILL RAPIDLY SURFACE. (MALIK HAS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT CALL ON AMBASSADOR AT 0800 ZULU TOMORROW). WE WOULD THEREFORE BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR GUIDANCE AS TO WHAT WE ARE PERMITTED TO SAY TO FOREIGN NEWSMEN WHO MAKE SPECIFIC INQUIRIES TO US RE STATUS KAGNEW TWO CASE. THIS CONNECTION, JUNKETING JOURNALISTS IN JDBA EXPECTED RETURN HERE SHORTLY AND WILL NO DOUBT TAKE UP THE CRY. PLEASE INSTRUCT URGENTLY.
BREWER

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Message Attributes

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